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a magazine for the villages around Ham Hill



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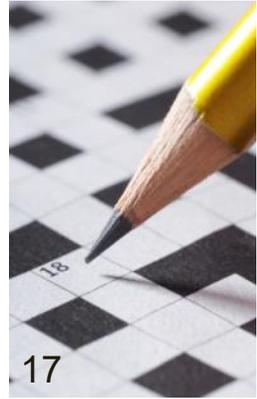
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**For information about the
group contact:**

Cath Holloway 07951 944420

cath.holloway@sparksomerset.org.uk



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Please support our local businesses as much as you are able.
 Please note that all the information within these pages is correct at the time of going to print.

Copy deadline for the May issue is Monday 15th April

Norton & Chiselborough
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The Wall

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SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com

Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group

Stoke sub Hamdon Gardening Club

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**Health Walk,**

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Penny 822208 or

Mark 07496148756

## FIESTA AHEAD!



Norton Festival has plans for a Fiesta over the Early May Bank Holiday (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May).

The Fiesta is taking place mostly in Norton sub Hamdon Church where there will be over 40 exhibits of interests, hobbies and floral displays. Live music can be enjoyed at specified times and refreshments will be available throughout the Weekend. Brave Teddies parachute from the tower on Saturday and there's an Owl Trail around the village throughout the weekend. Full details in the Fiesta Programme available locally.

## Stoke-sub-Hamdon Gardening Club Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 At The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, TA14 6PZ. 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.



We are delighted to have James Cross, Head Gardener of the Bishop's Palace Gardens, Wells, talking to us in April about the Past, Present and Future of the Gardens. There is a charge of £5 for visitors. Cash only on the door please. Free refreshments; stall (bring or buy) for home grown plants/produce; monthly raffle.

## Emerald Jazz - Thursday 25th April 2024



at All Saints Church, MARTOCK; TA12 6JN - 7:30 pm  
Tickets: £10.00 at [Guardianstickets@gmail.com](mailto:Guardianstickets@gmail.com) , 07547 213992, Martock Gallery or Martock Newsagent (CASH ONLY); £12.00 at door.  
Website: [www.martockonline.co.uk/events](http://www.martockonline.co.uk/events) <https://www.facebook.com/emeraldjazz/>

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## Martock and District u3a - Wednesday 10th April



2.15pm for 2.30 start The Parish Hall Martock

Impressions of Berlin in 1963 - Ian Munro shares his photograph and first hand experiences of his time in Berlin. All welcome to the talk, and to enjoy a chat over refreshments and to find out about the learning, hobby and interest groups you can join through Martock & District u3a. More information about Martock & District u3a: email [martocku3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3amembership@gmail.com), telephone 07555 033027. website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

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*This series is all about using small spaces to grow food to eat.*

## Make a Green Roof.

A green roof is a shallow growing area above something else - it's a fantastic way of using "dead spaces" and "greenify" less attractive utility areas like bin shelters.

Plants which tolerate "Mediterranean" climates like thyme, marjoram, sage and trailing rosemary are great as they don't mind if the soil gets dry. They also provide year round cover and bees love them!

Shallow rooting annuals are also good - think of lettuce, spring onions, radish, basil, coriander, chives and parsley. These are often overlooked in a small garden but weight for weight are "high value" crops you can enjoy all summer long.

To make a green roof line a flat surface with waterproof membrane/ recycled plastic sheeting and fix to a border/rim to keep the soil (and plants!) in place. Make drainage holes so the soil doesn't get too wet (and heavy!)

Or for a temporary green roof just use gravel trays.

Fill with compost and plants / seeds taking care not to over plant or over weigh the supporting frame!





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| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Bad Edukation |
| Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> | Sidetracks    |
| Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> | Storm         |



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# It's a Puzzle

## Jungle Word Search

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V | B | J | C | A | Z | G | L | Y | T | I | G | E | R | O |
| S | L | O | T | H | R | E | W | B | S | G | L | X | Q | E |
| T | I | Z | N | P | B | C | U | R | F | E | A | F | H | V |
| O | P | Y | O | A | L | K | R | V | P | A | D | W | E | I |
| X | U | Q | L | R | G | O | W | H | S | L | L | G | Y | N |
| A | M | C | K | Q | A | V | A | W | J | A | G | U | A | R |
| H | B | S | R | D | M | N | P | G | J | N | K | I | E | V |
| F | X | U | E | Q | T | D | G | N | I | A | X | T | J | Z |
| R | A | H | R | S | V | C | M | U | B | Q | K | G | P | D |
| O | W | R | E | D | I | P | S | F | T | K | B | I | Y | N |
| G | Y | N | G | A | S | N | D | E | Y | A | V | L | T | A |
| S | Y | P | A | R | R | O | T | Z | X | A | N | K | H | L |
| G | E | R | B | L | V | C | E | V | O | M | J | F | O | V |
| G | O | R | I | L | L | A | E | L | A | B | Y | K | N | S |

Gorilla  
Parrot  
Python  
Jaguar  
Elephant  
Orangutan  
Frog  
Gecko  
Sloth  
Tiger  
Spider

Answer on page 28

|   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| 8 |   |   |   |  |   |   |   | 4 |
|   | 7 |   | 4 |  |   |   | 3 |   |
|   | 6 |   |   |  | 8 |   |   | 9 |
|   |   | 6 |   |  |   |   |   | 5 |
|   | 9 |   | 1 |  |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 3 |  |   |   | 2 |   |
|   |   | 5 | 9 |  | 2 |   |   |   |
| 6 |   |   |   |  | 4 |   | 5 |   |
| 4 |   |   |   |  | 1 | 6 |   |   |

## Sudoku

Each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1 to 9 just once.

## Weather Anagrams

1. RTOMS
2. YDLUCO
3. SSANEO
4. SCTFREAO
5. DORNAOT
6. UMPETREAER

Answers on page 28

# GARDEN CREATURES

## Spot the Difference

Find the 10 differences between the 2 pictures below.



## Word Mix Up

Can you rearrange the following jumbled letters into words that are to do with the garden?

Each one has an extra letter:  
Identify these to find the name of something you find in the garden.

1) dibrb

2) sreags

3) tubetryfel

4) refwolt

5) neelfc

6) bydradlie

Extra Letter

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |

Extra Letter Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chaenomeles (flowering Quince) at Barrington Court  
photo Jemma Marsh

After the pale days of winter, it's a relief to welcome the longer days of spring, with brighter skies and hedgerows becoming greener. The colourful blossoms especially provide us all with a cheerful moment to connect with nature, and it is something the National Trust has been celebrating for the last few years. The blossom campaign is part of long-term efforts to return blossoming trees to landscapes; and to create a UK equivalent of Japan's 'hanami', the popular traditional custom where people of all generations enjoy the transient beauty of blossom.

The milder temperatures over the winter mean the trees and hedgerows have sprung into life quite early, and there are plenty of places in South Somerset where you catch the sights and scents of these delicate blooms.

The estate at Lytes Cary Manor is one of the first places that feels spring-like – the White walk is so called because the blackthorn and hawthorn trees that line the pathways, and their early blossom, creates a tunnel of white. The garden orchard (one of the formal orchards in the garden) becomes a sea of white and pink towards the end of spring with apples, pears, crab apples, quince, and medlars all coming into flower.

Visitors can catch blossoms as soon as they arrive at Barrington Court when the Goose orchard is in flower. The team in Visitor Reception will highlight new blooms with bud vases containing weekly specimen. Particularly eye-catching are the jewel-coloured wall flowers around the formal garden as well. At Montacute House people can find hawthorn, blackthorn, apple, damson, and wisteria in pockets across the garden and parkland.

Wherever you are, if you are out and about enjoying the blossoms, please do share your pictures with us on social media using **#BlossomWatch**.



Lambs and Hawthorne in the Parkland at Montacute House, photo Clare Gascoigne



Apple Blossom at Barrington Court,  
photo Jemma Marsh



Blossom in the Orchard at Lytes Cary Manor,  
photo Amy Callaghan



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# Ham Hill Update



## Rangers update

As the birds start nesting and spring starts in earnest, the work of the rangers' changes with the season. Scrub removal and tree works take a back seat in the breeding season, whilst work to the infrastructure and dry-stone walls takes priority. The rangers will be busy working on improving the paths, especially on the ramparts and in the busiest areas of the country park, to reduce erosion damage caused by visitor footfall, improve drainage, but most importantly to provide good stable paths for our visitors to use.

## Wildlife



April is probably the best month to head to the woodlands at Ham Hill. At Hedgecock Woods you will find the floor carpeted with wild garlic – thick shiny leaves with white flowers, you will notice the smell making your mouth water!

The Western Ramparts are speckled with yellow celandines, that close their flowers at night and Horses Wood and Pit Wood becomes a carpet of blue with native bluebells in abundance. Do you know the difference between our native bluebell and Spanish bluebell? Our native bluebell is a more delicate, purple-blue flower. It is actually a member of the hyacinth family (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and when the sun shines on a patch, you will be able to smell the resemblance. The flower heads on native bluebells hang on the same side of the stalk, giving them that tell-tale droop and the leaves are much narrower, more like grass. Non-native bluebells, such as Spanish bluebells (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*), threaten our native species as they can cross pollinate, causing hybrids to grow.

You may spot the enigmatic wood anemone across our woodland floors too. This white flower with yellow anthers in the centre, are a slow spreading species and are therefore indicators of ancient woodland.

It may surprise you to know that amphibians are also making their presence known at Ham Hill. However, you will have to venture to the bottom of Witcombe Valley to see signs that they are around. The medieval pond and new dragonfly scrape have been filled with frogspawn since late February, so you may see a mass of tadpoles if you look during April.



## ‘Uncovering Ham Hill’s past for its future’ project update

### We are recruiting for volunteers!

Do you have keen eye for spotting bees, or do you know your salad burnet from your scabious? If so then we want to hear from you! Jasmine is looking for some voluntary wildlife surveyors to help record Ham Hill’s fantastic wildlife this spring and summer. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone that has an interest in or knowledge of botany (particularly calcareous grasslands) and bumblebees. You do not have to have any experience but a good eye for identification is key.

We’d also be happy to hear from you if you have a particular interest or knowledge in any other type of wildlife too.

Jasmine is also recruiting for volunteers to assist with public events and activities at Ham Hill over the coming summer months. If you have a passion for nature and the environment and you are keen to enthuse others, we’d love to hear from you! You do not need to commit to any hours, just help when you can.

Get in touch with Jasmine by emailing her on [jasmine.ely@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jasmine.ely@somerset.gov.uk) or call the Ham Hill office on 01935 823617.

During April, we will be getting our paths audited by Living Options Devon, for their accessibility so that we can start to hire out our new tramper (off-road mobility vehicle) through the Countryside Mobility Scheme. You can find out more about the scheme here **Countryside Mobility - Living Options Devon**



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## The small hall with the BIG reputation

# David Hall

### BEN POOLE BAND

Saturday April 6th at 8.00pm - £21 full, £20 concs.



Ben Poole is an award-winning Blues, Rock and Soul guitarist, singer and songwriter hailing from the United Kingdom.

Last at TDH in 2022 when he wowed the audience with his amazing performance

### APRIL EVENTS at The David Hall

#### CORACLE

Coracle are Paul Hutchinson, Karen  
Wimhurst & Anna Tam

Saturday April 13th at  
8.00pm  
£19 full, £18 concs.

Coracle bring together the traditional and the contemporary. Paul was one half of Belahazzars Feast but with the untimely demise of Paul Sartin he is with us in this new incarnation.



#### Sideways Band

a 'Private Promotion' event  
Friday April 19th at 8.00pm  
£15 no concs.



Peter Buxton, guitar vocals and Rick Smith, master of the harp entertain with a mixture of Blues, Jazz and Banter. A unique combo.

#### MR TEA & THE MINIONS

A 'Chance to Dance' Event  
Saturday April 20th. at 8.00pm  
£18 full, £17 concs.

Back for their second visit, a perfect band for a C to D event. You will not stand still and you will not be disappointed with this wonderful bunch. Raucous original Ska Folk drawing on many influences.



NEW!  
Sunday Jazz Cafe with  
live music.  
11am - 1.00pm  
Sunday May 19th.  
£8 admission.

#### Steve Tilston (Accompanied by Hugh Bradley on bass)

He's been described as a complete guitarist, and a singer songwriter of rare talent. His songs have been covered by a who's who of the folk world. After 50 years in the business he's on fine form.

Saturday April 27th  
at 8.00pm-£17 full, £16 concs



#### NOT FORGETTING OUR REGULAR EVENTS

PETHERTON PICTURE SHOW - Friday 12th and Friday 26th April

TRIO PARADIS - Wednesday 3rd April 11am Free admission, retiring collection.

ACOUSTIC NIGHT - Sunday 28th April 7.30pm - 10.30. Contact folk@chriswatts.org to book a spot

COFFEE MORNING - Wednesday 24th April 10.00am - 12.00 Coffee, cake, & live music.



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# Answers from page 16 & 17

## Jungle Word Search

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V | B | J | C | A | Z | G | L | Y | T | I | G | E | R | O |
| S | L | O | T | H | R | E | W | B | S | G | L | X | Q | E |
| T | I | Z | N | P | B | C | U | R | F | E | A | F | H | V |
| O | P | Y | O | A | L | K | R | V | P | A | D | W | E | I |
| X | U | Q | L | R | G | O | W | H | S | L | L | G | Y | N |
| A | M | C | K | Q | A | V | A | W | J | A | G | U | A | R |
| H | B | S | R | D | M | N | P | G | J | N | K | I | E | V |
| F | X | U | E | Q | T | D | G | N | I | A | X | T | J | Z |
| R | A | H | R | S | V | C | M | U | B | Q | K | G | P | D |
| O | W | R | E | D | I | P | S | F | T | K | B | I | Y | N |
| G | Y | N | G | A | S | N | D | E | Y | A | V | L | T | A |
| S | Y | P | A | R | R | O | T | Z | X | A | N | K | H | L |
| G | E | R | B | L | V | C | E | V | O | M | J | F | O | V |
| G | O | R | I | L | L | A | E | L | A | B | Y | K | N | S |

## Weather Anagrams

1. STORM
2. CLOUDY
3. SEASON
4. FORECAST
5. TORNADO
6. TEMPERATURE

## Spot the Difference:

Spider's leg missing,  
 Beetle's wing colour,  
 Bee's tongue missing,  
 Fly's eye colour,  
 Snail's eye missing,  
 Caterpillar's back colour,  
 Flower petal colour,  
 Caterpillar's teeth missing,  
 Tree missing in background,  
 Centre of Snail shell different.

## Word Mix Up

1. bird
  2. grass
  3. butterfly
  4. flower
  5. fence
  6. ladybird.
- Extra letter answer : **Beetle**

## Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 1 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 2 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 6 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 |



# EASTER EVENTS AT HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK

2nd April 2024  
10am - 12pm

**Fire Lighting &  
Campfire Crafts**



4th April 2024  
10am - 12pm

**An Eggcellent Eggy  
Eggxtravaganza**

5th April 2024  
10am - 12pm

**Woodland Wander &  
Den Building**



11th April 2024  
10am - 11.30am

**Fossil Fun**

12th April 2024  
10am - 11.30am

**Spring Forest Fun for  
Mini-Adventurers**



£6 per child ticket. Booking essential for all events. All children must be supervised by an adult at all times.

See full details and booking on webpage. Follow link or scan QR code.



<https://www.visitsouthsomerset.com/events/nature-and-wildlife>



# Where To Look



|                              |    |                                |    |                                     |    |
|------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Art Centre</b>            |    | <b>Farm Shop</b>               |    | <b>Plumbing &amp; Heating</b>       |    |
| The David Hall               | 25 | West Country Water Buffalo     | 19 | Sureheat Solutions                  | 27 |
| <b>Bathrooms</b>             |    | <b>Fencing</b>                 |    | <b>Printing Services</b>            |    |
| Mike Neville                 | 13 | ARB Tree & Garden Services     | 11 | Wincanton Print                     | 1  |
| <b>Boiler Servicing</b>      |    | The Fencing & Gate Co.         | 21 | <b>Pubs</b>                         |    |
| Sureheat Solutions           | 27 | <b>Flooring</b>                |    | The Prince of Wales                 | 13 |
| <b>Builders</b>              |    | Steve Deane                    | 8  | <b>Removals</b>                     |    |
| Bowring Building Contractors | 18 | <b>Financial Services</b>      |    | Back2Market                         | 25 |
| <b>Building Supplies</b>     |    | Simply Advice                  | 31 | <b>Roofing</b>                      |    |
| CRS                          | 26 | <b>Funeral Directors</b>       |    | Bowring Building Contractors        | 18 |
| <b>Carpenter</b>             |    | Stoodley & Son                 | 24 | Parks Roofing                       | 15 |
| Tree Bespoke Woodwork        | 8  | Stuart Foster Funeral Services | 14 | <b>Social Club</b>                  |    |
| <b>Carpet Cleaning</b>       |    | <b>Hairdresser</b>             |    | Stoke Club                          | 14 |
| WillClean                    | 21 | Lisa Smith Hair                | 5  | <b>Soft Furnishings</b>             |    |
| <b>Carpet Fitting</b>        |    | The Hair Loft                  | 15 | Feather Interiors                   | 5  |
| Steve Deane                  | 8  | <b>Hedge Cutting</b>           |    | <b>Sports Massage</b>               |    |
| <b>Chiropractor</b>          |    | ARB Tree & Garden Services     | 11 | Chiropractic Care Clinics           | 27 |
| Chiropractic Care Clinics    | 27 | Montague Countryside Services  | 4  | <b>Taxi</b>                         |    |
| <b>Computer Help</b>         |    | <b>House Clearance</b>         |    | Freeway Taxis                       | 8  |
| GEM Home Computing           | 5  | Back2Market                    | 25 | <b>Tiling Specialist</b>            |    |
| <b>Computer Repairs</b>      |    | <b>Kitchens</b>                |    | Mike Neville                        | 13 |
| GEM Home Computing           | 5  | Kitchen Kind                   | 21 | <b>Tree Services</b>                |    |
| <b>Curtains and Blinds</b>   |    | Tree Bespoke Woodwork          | 8  | ARB Tree & Garden Services          | 11 |
| Drapes Direct                | 9  | <b>Logs</b>                    |    | Montague Countryside Services       | 4  |
| Feather Interiors            | 5  | Kevin England                  | 11 | <b>Upholstery Cleaning</b>          |    |
| Hillarys Blinds              | 19 | <b>Meat</b>                    |    | WillClean                           | 21 |
| <b>Electricians</b>          |    | West Country Water Buffalo     | 19 | <b>Vets</b>                         |    |
| KS Electric                  | 11 | <b>Oven Cleaning</b>           |    | Isle Valley Vets                    | 18 |
| <b>Events</b>                |    | Oven Gleamers                  | 18 | Minster Veterinary Surgery          | 15 |
| Haynes Motor Museum          | 9  | <b>Pest Control</b>            |    | <b>Village Shop</b>                 |    |
| National Trust               | 32 | Pegasus                        | 9  | Stoke Community Shop                | 13 |
| Flower Show Plant Sale       | 4  |                                |    | <b>Windows &amp; Conservatories</b> |    |
| Crewkerne Carers Group       | 2  |                                |    | Tree Bespoke Woodwork               | 8  |
| The David Hall               | 25 |                                |    |                                     |    |

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